

# SBC Foundation Awards GEAR UP

The SBC Foundation - the philanthropic arm of SBC Communications, Inc. - announced on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 that Nevada State GEAR UP was selected to receive an educational grant in the amount of \$66,670.

The grant will be used to help develop a software program that measures a student's academic performance based on attendance and participation in GEAR UP programs. Known as KidTrax TM, the pilot program is designed specifically for measuring outcomes including program attendance, attitudinal and knowledge surveys, grades and test scores, and demographic data.

Nevada State GEAR UP was developed in 2001 and now serves more than 3,000 students at 18 high schools statewide. The program aims to provide students with ongoing academic support throughout their middle and high school years. Upon completion of high school, students who actively participated in GEAR UP and are admitted into one of the seven publicly funded Nevada institutions of higher education will receive a scholarship. The SBC Foundation and the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCPEP) support Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP).

"SBC's support of education is built on the belief that every child should have opportunities to succeed," said State Senator William Raggio, R-Washoe. "Most of the fastest-growing jobs this decade will require education beyond high school. It is critical to support effective programs that provide youth with the tools they need to prepare themselves for lifelong success."

"SBC is committed to enriching and strengthening our communities through education," said Sylvia Samano, president, SBC Nevada. "Mentoring programs like these make a direct impact on students in their formative years and can result in productive, well-rounded young adults, who give back to their community."

## Rancho GEAR UP Parent Night *(Continued from page 1)*



Ms. Lozano spoke to the GEAR UP students at an assembly earlier that day. She was born and raised in South Central LA in a very rough neighborhood, and gave an inspiring talk about the ability to succeed and overcome personal obstacles from both an environmental, as well as financial aspect. She spoke of believing in your dreams, and honoring loved ones by personally succeeding in memory of them. For those students who missed this informative evening join us in the spring for the "GEAR UP Spring Carnival."

### HAVE YOU MOVED?

Be sure to let GEAR UP know if you ever change your address. That way we can continue to contact you for these and other exciting college-prep activities. Please send your address change to your GEAR UP school or to: [jthomas@doe.nv.gov](mailto:jthomas@doe.nv.gov)

### GEAR UP PARTNERS

<b>College Partners</b>	
University and Community College System of Nevada Board of Regents	
	
<b>Agency Partners</b>	
Nevada State Treasurer State Board of Education Nevada Department of Education	
	
<b>Business Partners</b>	
Wells Fargo Bank USA Funds SBC	
	

### GEAR UP

FUN  
EARLY AWARENESS  
FOR COLLEGE STUDIES  
FOR EARLY EDUCATIONAL  
STUDIES  
FOR OUR FUTURE  
GEAR UP  
READINESS

*Submitted by Angela, student*



### GEAR UP HIGH SCHOOLS

#### Clark County

Chaparral  
Canyon Springs  
Clark/Mojave  
Desert Pines  
Palo Verde/Del Sol  
Rancho/Valley  
Western/Cheyenne  
Cimarron Memorial  
Eldorado/Durango  
Las Vegas Academy

Las Vegas

Vo-Tech

A-Tech

#### Elko County

Owyhee

#### Lyon County

Yerington

#### Humboldt County

McDermitt

#### Mineral County

Mineral County

#### Nye County

Gabbs

Beatty

Tonopah

#### Washoe County

Hug

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# GEAR UP Grapevine

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

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## Rancho GEAR UP Parent Night



Rancho High School held it's first GEAR UP Parent Night for the 2004/05 school year on October 20<sup>th</sup>. More than 300 parents and students attended which made the event a huge success. Attorneys were available from the Law Office of Dawn Lozano and the Law Office of Jon Garde, along with Professor Raquel Aldonna from UNLV Boyd School of Law; the group answered questions concerning immigration. Elizabeth Halverson also attended and discussed overcoming personal obstacles, and recruiters from UNLV and CCSN reviewed college careers. Awards were given to students who achieved a GPA of 2.0 or higher during the 2003/04 school year. Students who were not in attendance may pick up their awards in room 211. Special thanks to the Rancho Mariachi Band and Folklorio Dancers for providing entertainment for the evening. (Continued on page 4)

### GEAR UP PADRES

GEAR UP es un programa de apollo a los estudiantes y padres con información y actividades para prepararlos para el colegio.

Suéñelo

Créalo

Lógrelo

Favor de llamarle al consejero escolar de su hijo/hija para la información acerca del Programa GEAR UP.

# GEAR UP CONTINUES TO GROW

GEAR UP in Las Vegas continues to spread across the valley with the opening of three new high schools this year. Two of these have over a hundred GEAR UP students; Canyon Springs in the Northeast Region and Del Sol in the Southeast Region. Canyon Springs' students transferred mostly from Palo Verde with some students coming from Mojave and Cimarron Memorial High Schools. Del Sol students were drawn from Chaparral, Green Valley and Silverado.

Canyon Springs is a magnet school for law and leadership between Cheyenne Avenue and Craig Road; therefore, GEAR UP students have opportunities to interact with students and legal professionals from all over the valley. Tom Rizzo, GEAR UP advisor, attracts many students to the broadcasting program. A pioneer mascot is fitting for this school that is leading the way to new opportunities for all students.

Del Sol GEAR UP students were not in sub grant schools last year so they are enjoying the special attention that comes with a full GEAR UP program. The campus on Patrick Lane near the airport has a unique identity created through a sunray logo and dragon mascot. Kim Cox and Lilliam Sifuentes are the GEAR Up advisors. GEAR UP students at Del Sol have a full block schedule with many innovative electives such as ballet.

## Del Sol High School Happenings



Del Sol High School's GEAR UP program is in motion with 85 GEAR UP students participating. The GEAR UP students have enjoyed a number of GEAR UP activities already this school year, with many more to come. A number of the students attended The College Fair at the Cashman Center in October. Approximately 400 institutes of higher education were represented at this fair. Each college or university was available to discuss it's program with the students and had literature for the students to take home for further review. The students were happy to have had the opportunity to go to the fair because they felt as if they would not have been able to go if they were not involved with GEAR UP.

In November, 85 GEAR UP students attended the GEAR UP Orientation. Luis Ortega visited from CCSN and spoke to the students about preparing for and getting into college and how college benefits students. Following the orientation Del Sol students who are not involved in GEAR UP were asking for information on how to join.

GEAR UP is currently working to get the tutoring program for math and English in full swing.

## Canyon Springs High School Happenings

Canyon Springs High School has begun after-school tutoring for the GEAR UP Students. Students who are recommended by their teachers attend either math or English tutoring after school. Also, since Canyon Springs uses Edline, a program which allows the students to check their grades and get news online, GEAR UP has created a special GEAR UP conference that allows GEAR UP to keep the GEAR UP Kids informed of school activities via the Edline web site. A full time UNLV GEAR UP coordinator, Tommy French has been assigned to Canyon Springs. Tom Rizzo and he are working together to develop GEAR UP activities for parents and students throughout the year at Canyon Springs.



# Students Visit WNCC for College Day



High school students from throughout Western Nevada Community College's service area had a hands-on interactive view of college life at WNCC's second semi-annual College Day in October.

Seven hundred 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from 16 area schools, plus home school students and alternative high school students, attended College Day, along with high school teachers and counselors. Students attended from these schools: Carson City, Churchill County, Coleville, Damonte Ranch, Dayton, Douglas, Fernley, Gabbs, Galena, Hug, Lee Vining, Mineral County, Pershing County, Pioneer, Sierra Lutheran, Silver Stage, Smith Valley, Virginia City, Whittell, and Yerington.

Outreach Coordinator, Sue Richards, said, "College Day increased the students' awareness about secondary education options, including degrees and programs, career opportunities and financial assistance. We provided tours, workshops and a counseling seminar." College Day is funded by the School to Career A.C.C.E.S.S. grant. These funds have been provided by USA Funds and the Nevada Public Education Foundation.

## MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIPS WILL REQUIRE A 3.25 GPA FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2007!



### [www.collegelife.about.com](http://www.collegelife.about.com)

This site provides information about various aspects of college life from the viewpoint of current college students. Topics include academics, athletics, living options, what to bring, Greek Systems, social life, and more.

### [www.usafunds.org](http://www.usafunds.org)

This site provides helpful information for students and parents about planning and paying for college.

### [www.nevada.collegeanswer.com](http://www.nevada.collegeanswer.com)

This site answers just about any questions you might have about college and is sponsored by USA Funds.

### [www.collegeispossible.org](http://www.collegeispossible.org)

This is a resource guide for parents, students, and education professionals. It provides information about preparing for college, choosing the right college, and paying for college.

### [www.mapping-your-future.org](http://www.mapping-your-future.org)

Provides helpful information about college and career planning, and has sections for middle to high school students and parents.

